

VIRGINIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



What is VEMA?

- ⦿ VEMA is a non-profit organization composed of individuals with an interest in emergency management having a vision to promote, support and advocate the emergency management mission in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Who is VEMA?

- ◎ The VEMA board consists of representatives from:
 - Each of the 7 VDEM regions
 - The military
 - Business & industry
 - Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)
 - Institutions of higher education
 - Federal government employees and agencies/departments
 - Emergency management students
 - Virginia Department of Emergency Management
 - Law enforcement agencies and organizations
- ◎ We are a growing organization
 - This past year our colleagues in higher education joined VEMA and we are currently talking with the emergency planners in the health departments.



What does VEMA do?



- ⦿ Together through VEMA we share ideas, problems, and best practices. As one voice, we identify issues to the State that affect our programs and educate those in the legislature on the issues we face that need their support.
- ⦿ VEMA serves the following Emergency Management communities:
 - Local, State and Federal Government including the Military
 - Private Sector
 - Non-profit and voluntary organizations
 - Hospital and medical organizations
 - Institutions of Higher education, Colleges and Universities
- ⦿ Each year we hold a symposium that presents the latest changes and trends in emergency management along with classes on the hottest topics. We have speakers from across the country that talk about major events, the challenges they faced and successes they had.

What does VEMA do cont...

- ④ The association provides a network of a variety of emergency managers that can assist in day-to-day program management and during disasters.
- ④ VEMA, in collaboration with VDEM, maintains a certification program recognized as one of the top in the nation, closely modeled after the IAEM certification program.
- ④ Through our scholarship program we award students of emergency management assistance.



Why join VEMA?

- Members get discounts on certification and the annual symposium.
- Access to a wealth of resources through the member's only area of the website
- Adds your voice to the voice of many.
- Provides opportunities to network, engage and collaborate with others in the industry.



VEMA Website



- VEMA maintains a website at www.vemaweb.org with information available to the public and a special area for members only.
- Member's only area:
 - Provides a discussion area where members can exchange ideas and seek assistance in dealing with the everyday challenges of the program.
- Document library:
 - Members can get copies of plans, procedures, exercises, and various other documents that can be of assistance.
- VEMA active calendar of events/meetings
- Announcement board where important or new events can be posted by members.

VEMA Website cont...

- Minutes of association meetings are also posted here so members can stay up-to-date on the latest Association activities.
- Membership list so you can stay in contact with other members working in the field.
- The public area provides the latest information and stories of importance to Emergency Managers with news archives available to research older information.
- Tabs are available to provide information on membership, certification, scholarships and awards. In addition the latest information on the Symposiums is posted.
- “Resources” tab which provides important links for federal, state and local emergency management resources.
 - Also available is a section for employment postings in the Emergency Management and Homeland security field. You may search for positions there or post open positions that you may have.

Get Involved!

- There are numerous opportunities to get involved. VEMA has several standing committees that are looking for members that want to participate. All you have to do is let us know you are interested in serving. Some of the committees VEMA has include:

- Awards & Scholarships
- Professional Development & Certification
- Conference/Symposium
- Legislative
- Membership & Marketing
- Technology
- Constitution & By-Laws



- In addition we periodically need to fill vacancies in the Board for regional representatives.
 - Let one of the officers know if this is something you might be interested in.
 - This does require a commitment of your time, so be aware of that if you express interest.